

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHILD CARE CONSOLIDATION AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996. I am pleased that my colleague, Senator DODD, has introduced the companion to this bill in the Senate.

The Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996 consolidates all the major child care programs, including the Child Care and Development Block Grant, into a seamless system of child care for working parents. It invests in child care by increasing funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Funds are increased to \$2.8 for fiscal year 1997, and each year thereafter. By fiscal year 2001, my bill provides \$4.7 billion for child care.

My bill creates a seamless web of support for families, all the way from welfare to work. Everyone is talking about welfare reform these days, and they should be. The current welfare system is broken. It's not working for the taxpayers and it's not working for the recipients. As cochair of the Democratic Congressional Task Force on Welfare Reform, I helped produce a proposal that reforms our ineffective welfare system by investing in education, training, and support services, including child care, to get families off welfare permanently.

Now, the House of Representatives has passed a bill that purports to move people off of welfare. However, it fails to remove one of the biggest barriers that keep even trained individuals from work: lack of available, safe, affordable child care. The bill that I am introducing today removes that barrier by ensuring that children have a safe place to go while their parents get job training and move into jobs. This bill ensures that single, custodial parents of young children will not be required to undertake education, job training, job search or employment unless appropriate child care is made available.

The Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996 doesn't stop there. It also directs States to reserve funds to carry out child care activities to support low-income working families, and before and after school care.

There is no question that working families need more child care. But, it is not enough to fund more facilities. Children must have a safe, clean environment that is both stimulating and nurturing if they are going to grow into adults that this country can rely on.

The Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996 expands access to affordable child care while improving the quality of child care. It does this by providing States with set-aside funds for quality improvements to child care. It also establishes a quality improvement incentive initiative that will make additional funds available to States that show progress in implementing innovative teacher

training programs and improved child care quality standards, licensing, and monitoring procedures.

Mr. Speaker, child care has traditionally been a bipartisan issue in the House of Representatives, so I hope that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join with me to ensure that no children in this country will be left alone, at home, in a car, or on the streets because their parents are doing their best to support their family. Let's move forward with welfare reform, but let's not leave our kids behind.

PHILMONT FIRE COMPANY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, anyone who visits my office cannot help but notice the display of fire helmets that dominates my reception area. They are there for two reasons. First, I had the privilege of being a volunteer fireman in my hometown of Queensbury for more than 20 years, which helps explain the second reason, the tremendous respect that experience gave me for those who provide fire protection in our rural areas.

In a rural area like the 22d District of New York, fire protection is often solely in the hands of these volunteer companies. In New York State alone they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property. That is why the efforts of people like those fire fighters in the Philmont Fire Department is so critical.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Philmont in Columbia County is certainly no exception. The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community makes places like Philmont great places to live. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the members of their volunteer fire department. For 100 years now, this organization has provided critical services for their neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, it has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents in Philmont, the members of their fire department have selflessly performed their duty, without remiss, since the formation of this organization one century ago. On Saturday, July 27, 1996, the fire company will be holding a parade to commemorate this milestone. Not only will this offer the residents around Philmont a chance to enjoy themselves at the planned festivities,

but it will provide the perfect opportunity for them to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of the Philmont Fire Company are great Americans. I am truly proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of voluntarism which has been such a central part of American life. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all Members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the Philmont Fire Company on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three distinguished young men for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America [BSA]. Joseph Rybarczyk, Adam Summers, and Anthony Paul Pagorek are all members of the Boy Scout Troop No. 542, sponsored by St. Thomas More Catholic Church Holy Name Society of Munster. They will receive this honor at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, July 21, 1996, at the Munster Community Social Center located in Munster, IN.

An elite group of 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts attain the Eagle Scout ranking, which is the highest of seven rankings in the Boy Scouts organization. In order to become an Eagle Scout, one must complete the following three tasks; earn 21 merit badges; complete a service project; and demonstrate strong leadership skills within the troop.

According to Stephen Kennedy, Troop Scout Master of BSA Troop No. 542, all three young men are longstanding members of Troop No. 542, as well as outstanding students. Joe, a student at Munster High School and a member of their school band, did an angel tree with the Salvation Army. This project provided Christmas gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute throughout the holiday. Joe was also a senior patrol leader, which is the highest position in the troop. Adam, also a member of Munster High School and their school band, took part in park improvements for the town of Munster. Specifically, he helped to restore several park benches. Anthony, an outstanding student and athlete at Andrean High School, improved landscaping around St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Anthony also attended the National Scout Preserve in Philmont, NM. This preserve is a high adventure camp with a rugged terrain.

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout always has carried with it special significance, not only in scouting, but also as he enters

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